

The Sensational SPIDER-MAN

BACK IN BLACK



The Strange Case of THE

PART TWO OF THREE

SIX DAYS AGO:

"DON'T BE STUPID."



AND
DON'T MAKE ME
FIGHT YOU.



W-WHY?
YOU--

SKIK-
SKIK-

--YOU SC-
SCARED?



YES,
YES, I
AM.

BUT I HAVE A
FRIEND WHO'S WORKING
ON WHAT'S DOING THIS TO
YOU. WHO I THINK CAN
REVERSE--



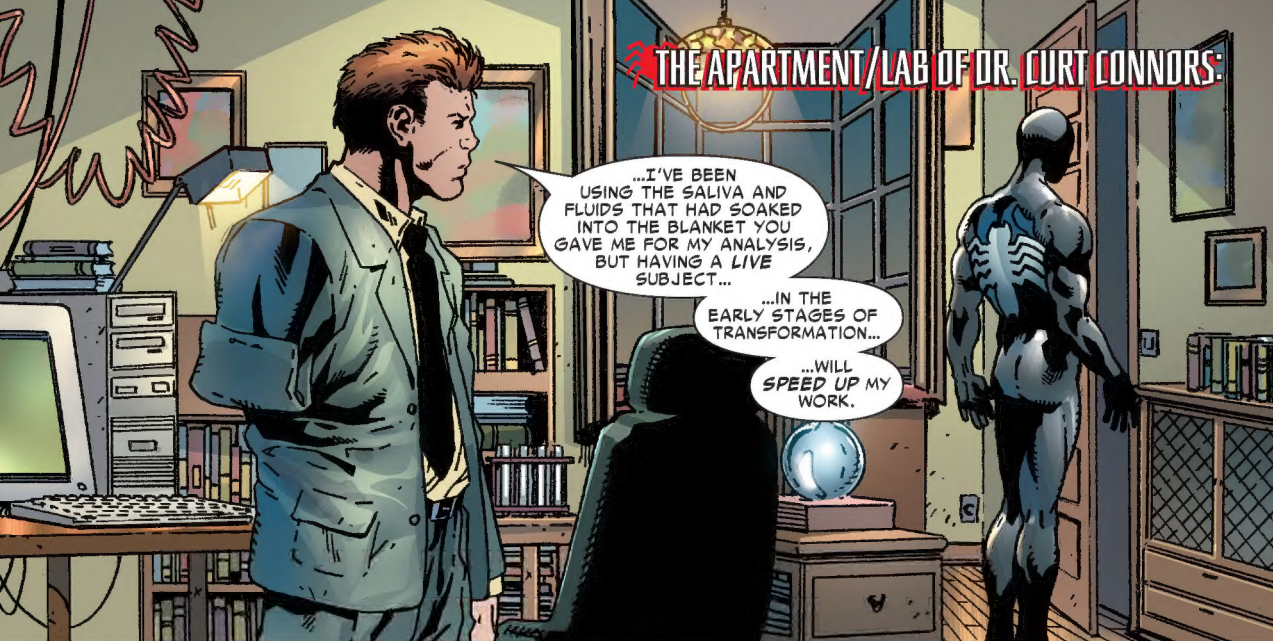
S-SHUT--

SKIK-
SKIK-

--UP!



THE APARTMENT/LAB OF DR. CURT CONNORS:





PRAY,
CURT.

MY AUNT'S
STRONG. SHE'S
A FIGHTER. SHE'LL
FIGHT HER WAY
BACK.

IN THE
MEANTIME, YOU
FOCUS ON THE KIDS.
ON FINDING A CURE
FOR THEM.



OF COURSE,
PETER.

AND
YOU'LL...?



THESE DOPPELGANGERS
ARE MY RESPONSIBILITY.
I'LL TRACK THEM DOWN,
HOWEVER MANY THERE
ARE. AND HOPEFULLY I'LL
GET TO THEM BEFORE
THEY DEGENERATE
AS FAR AS...

...OUR
FRIEND IN
THERE.



AND
AFTER YOU
CATCH THEM?
WHERE WILL
YOU PUT
THEM?





...WEARING THOSE
IDIOTIC, VARIATIONS-ON-
A-THEME *GETUPS* THE
AFOREMENTIONED MYSTERY
BENEFCTOR SUPPLIED
YOU.



WHAT HAPPENED NEXT
IS...*LESS* MYSTERIOUS.
SO ME LIKES.

YOU WERE ALL
DELIVERED TO MY
DOORSTEP...



"...IN THE SAME,
MORE OR LESS
IGNOBLE
MANNER..."



...BY PETER
PARKER.

(A.K.A. THE
REAL SPIDER-
MAN.)

WHICH
IS LUCKY FOR
YOU GUYS--

COFFEE
AND CONNORS
ARE UP,
DETECTIVE.



EXCELLENT, SILAS.

GENTLEMEN, THIS IS DOCTOR CURT CONNORS...

...THE MAN WHO'S GOING TO SAVE YOUR LIVES...



...SO YOU'D BETTER BEHAVE AND HEAR WHAT HE HAS TO SAY.

"I MEAN IT. I SERIOUSLY DON'T HAVE THE TIME OR THE PATIENCE FOR THIS BULL--"



STUFF YOU, SPIDER-MAN! YOU'RE A CRIMINAL AND A COWARD!

CRACKKK!

This is absurd. My aunt's in a hospital, shot by a sniper, hanging on by a **THREAD**, and I'm--



JUST SO YOU KNOW--JUST SO YOU'RE NOT UNDER ANY ILLUSIONS-- I ROLLED WITH THAT PUNCH SO THAT YOU WOULDN'T BREAK YOUR WRIST.




HUH?

SKIP IT, KID.

TWIP

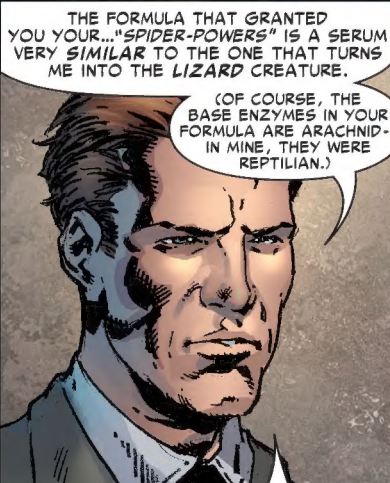
TWIP

And be **THANKFUL--**



--I GOT to
you when I did.


Another one for the mix.
Curt should already be at
the police station, like we
arranged. Same as me,
he's been working 'round
the clock on this...



THE FORMULA THAT GRANTED
YOU YOUR..."SPIDER-POWERS" IS A SERUM
VERY SIMILAR TO THE ONE THAT TURNS
ME INTO THE LIZARD CREATURE.

(OF COURSE, THE
BASE ENZYMES IN YOUR
FORMULA ARE ARACHNID--
IN MINE, THEY WERE
REPTILIAN.)


SIMILARLY, THOUGH, THE
SPIDER-FORMULA'S INITIAL **POSITIVE**
EFFECTS BELIE THE FACT THAT THE
LONGER IT REMAINS IN YOUR SYSTEMS...



...THE MORE
PROFOUND YOUR
TRANSFORMATIONS WILL
EVENTUALLY BE.



THE HELL
DOES THAT
MEAN?

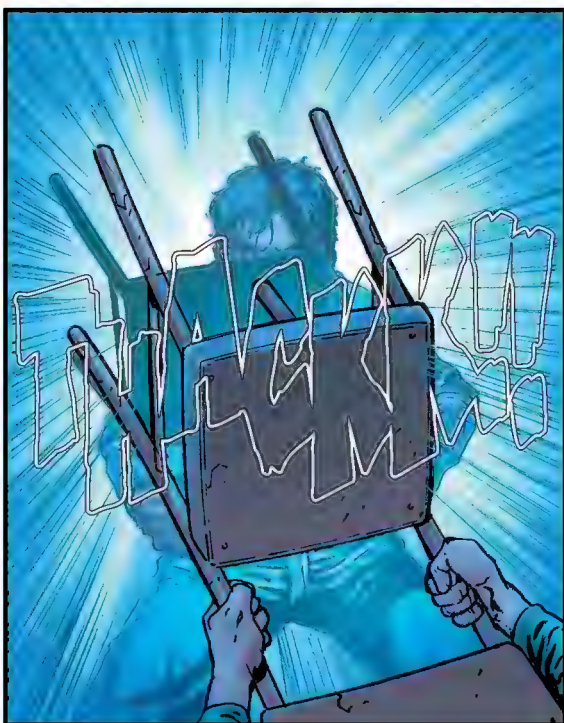


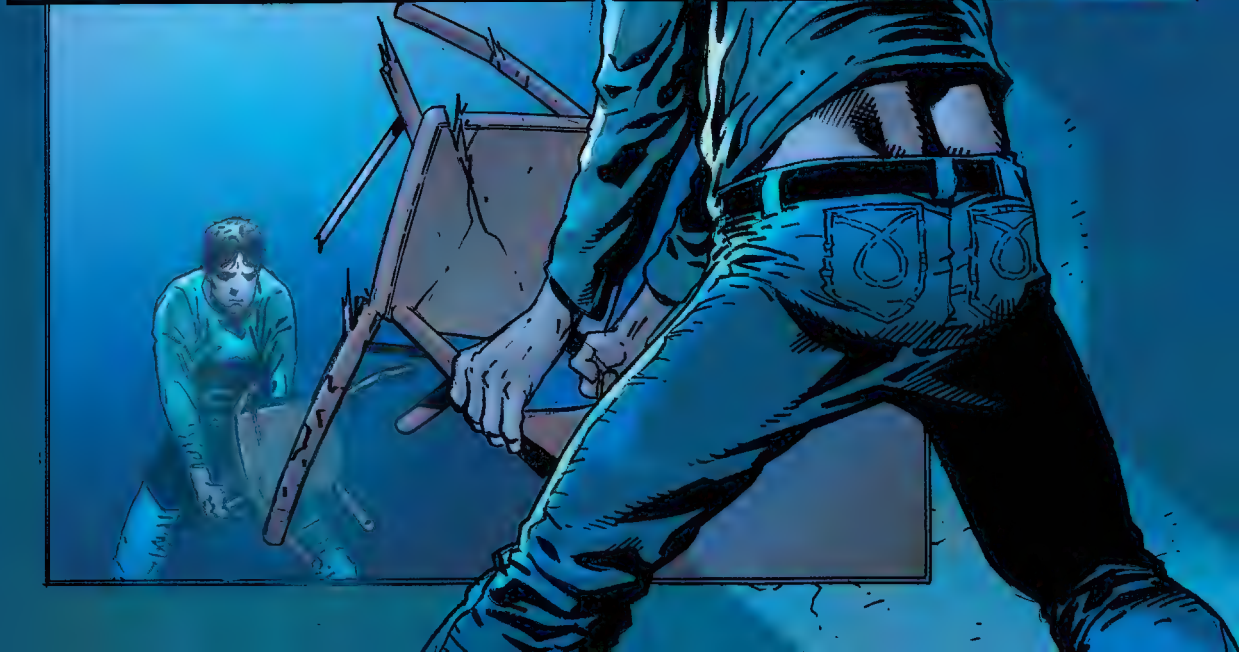
MIGHT AS
WELL TELL 'EM,
DOC. THEY'RE TOUGH
KIDS--THEY CAN
TAKE IT.

IT
MEANS...











OH, GOD,
WHY?

WHY ARE
YOU DOING
THIS???



...WHY...

...WHY
ME?

CALVIN ZABO:

YOU
DON'T EVEN
REALIZE...

IT'S BECAUSE
YOU'RE JUST LIKE
PETER PARKER.

AND
THEREFORE, THE
IDEAL CONTROL
SUBJECT.



THE NEXT DAY:

When Richards calls me to meet, I suggest the Chevys in Times Square.

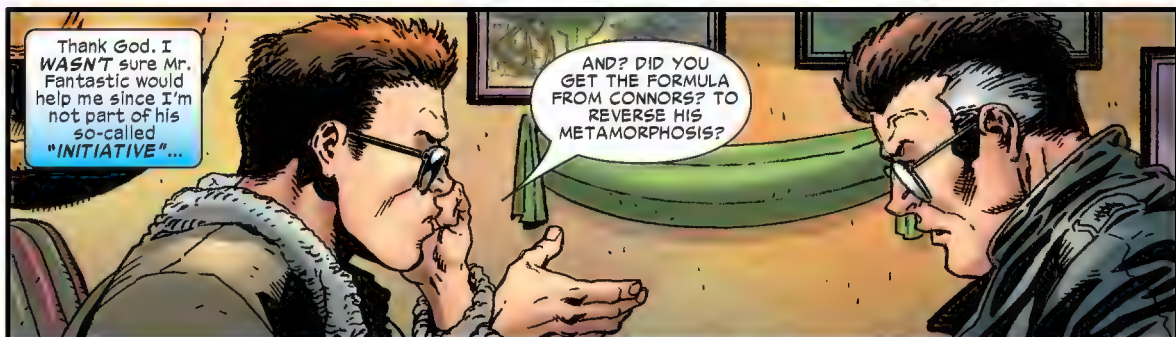
(Ironically, not far from where we were **PULVERIZING** ourselves at the end of the WAR.)



Lots of tourists, always crowded, less chance we'll be recognized.

THE GOOD NEWS IS...YOU GOT HIM TO ME IN TIME.

ETHAN MYERS--THE BOY YOU BROKE OUT OF JAIL--IS ALIVE AND STABLE.



Thank God. I **WASN'T** sure Mr. Fantastic would help me since I'm not part of his so-called "INITIATIVE"...

AND? DID YOU GET THE FORMULA FROM CONNORS? TO REVERSE HIS METAMORPHOSIS?



YES. ALTHOUGH...
...I **COULD'VE** MANUFACTURED AN ANTIDOTE MYSELF.



I FIGURED YOU'D HAVE ENOUGH ON YOUR HANDS WITH JUST...SAVING ETHAN'S LIFE.

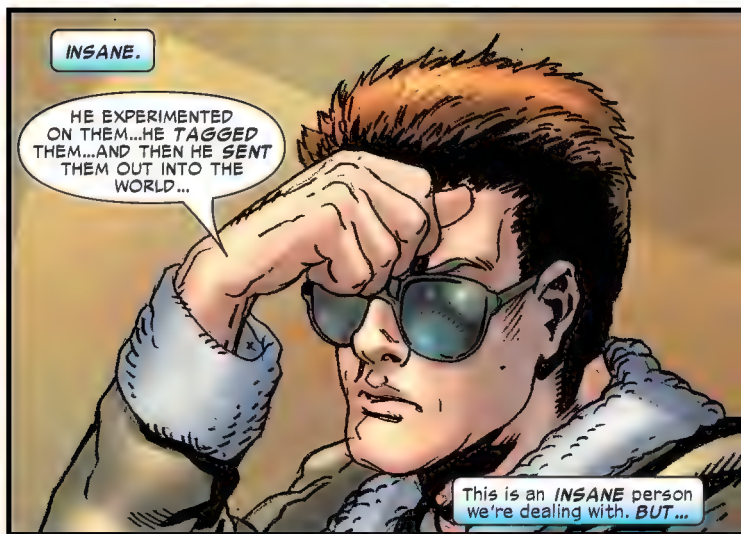
(And being Tony Stark's **LAPDOG.**)



WELL, I CERTAINLY DID MORE THAN THAT, PETER.

WHILE EXAMINING HIM, I ALSO FOUND...

(God, this is **TERRIBLE**. Reed and I used to be friends. Now I can **BARELY** look him in the eye. Even asking for this much help feels...**WRONG.**)







IF ONE MORE PERSON TELLS ME HOW BAD THEY FEEL...



...



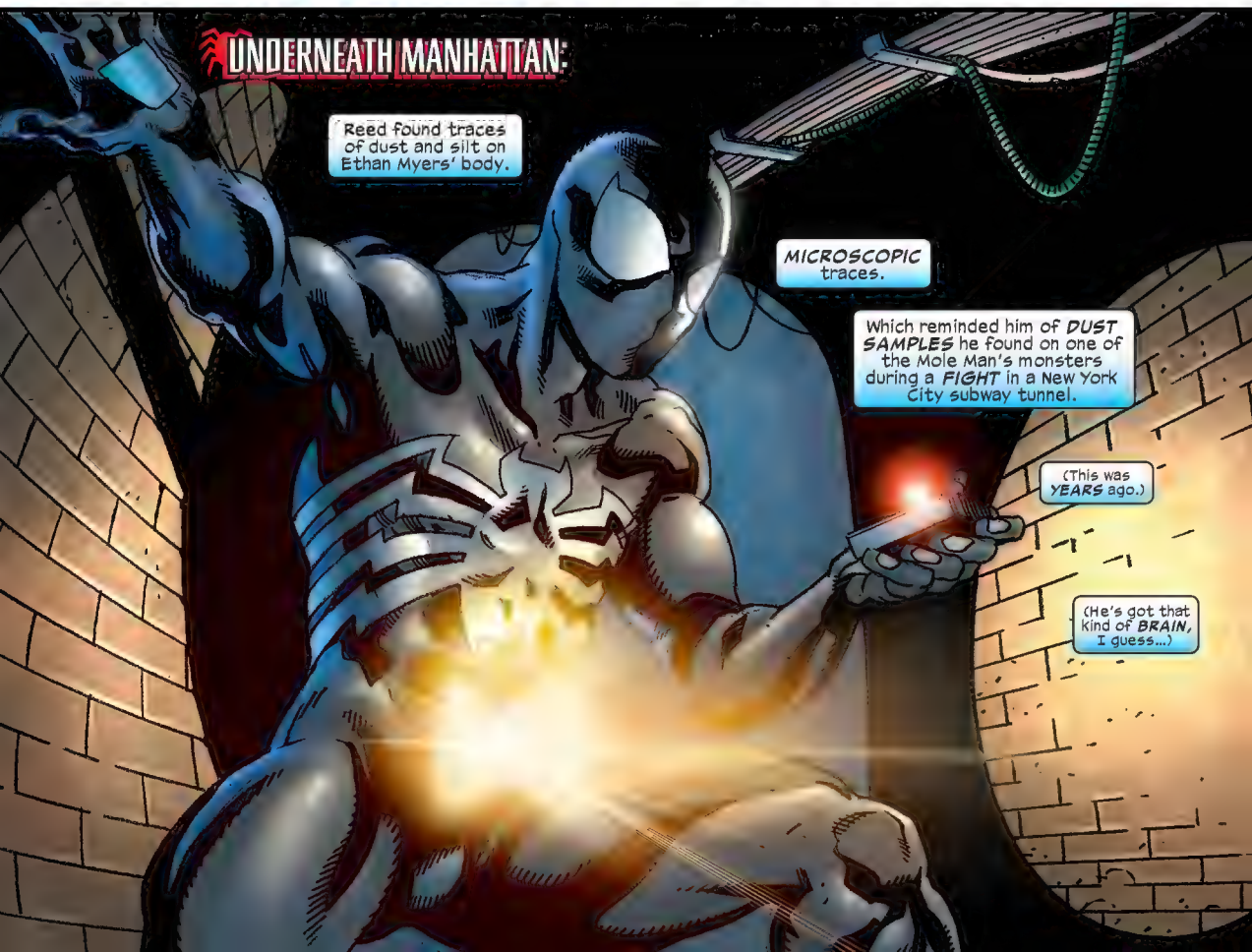
I... APPRECIATE THAT, REED.

EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS.



SOMETHING ELSE, PETER.

I BELIEVE I KNOW WHERE YOU MIGHT WANT TO AT LEAST BEGIN YOUR SEARCH...



UNDERNEATH MANHATTAN:

Reed found traces of dust and silt on Ethan Myers' body.

MICROSCOPIC traces.

Which reminded him of **DUST SAMPLES** he found on one of the Mole Man's monsters during a **FIGHT** in a New York City subway tunnel.

(This was YEARS ago.)

(He's got that kind of **BRAIN**, I guess...)

ZABO
AUDIO JOURNAL, ENTRY
NUMBER ONE HUNDRED
AND TWELVE.

"SPIDER
PROJECT" DAY...
EIGHTEEN.



MY
PEERS WON'T
UNDERSTAND...

MY NEED TO
UNDERSTAND...



A FIFTEEN-YEAR-
OLD BOY SOMEHOW
ACQUIRES THE
PROPORTIONATE SPEED,
STRENGTH AND AGILITY
OF A TRAP-DOOR
SPIDER...

...AND
DECIDES TO
DO GOOD.



AN
ADOLESCENT
BOY IS GRANTED
ENORMOUS
POWER...

...AND
CHOOSSES NOT
TO ABUSE IT.

HOW DOES
SUCH A THING
HAPPEN?



WHEN
THERE ARE TWO
NATURES AT WAR
WITHIN EACH
MAN...

...AND WHEN
SPIDERS ARE,
ESSENTIALLY,
AGGRESSIVE
CREATURES...

...GOOD
AND EVIL...



